

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PESHAW 00053 251512Z

71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 OPR-02 AID-20 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /107 W
----- 056871

R 251043Z SEP 73

FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 229

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

UNCLAS PESHAWAR 0053

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJ: UDF DEMONSTRATORS INDULGE IN VIOLENCE

AFTER FOUR WEEKS OF RELATIVELY RESTRAINED CAMPAIGN OF POLITICAL AGITATION AGAINST GOVERNMENT, UNITED DEMOCRATIC FRONT'S CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE PROTEST MOVEMENT TOOK VIOLENT TURN ON MORNING SEPTEMBER 21 IN PESHAWAR.

FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEETING IN CITY'S CHAUK YADGAR, ADDRESSED BY WALI KHAN, MUFTI MAHMUD AND OTHER PROTEST LEADERS, SOME ELEMENTS OF LARGE UDF PROCESSION MASSED IN FRONT OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE HURLED STONES INTO COMPOUND INJURING SEVERAL POLICEMEN. GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS LATER THREW STONES AT OFFICE OF NATIONAL PRESS TRUST NEWSPAPER MASHRIQ. FORTY-TWO PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR PARTICIPATING IN TWO INCIDENTS.

COMMENT: PRESS REPORTS OF A WALI KHAN'S SPEECH AT PUBLIC MEETING PRIOR TO OUTBREAKS OF VIOLENCE INDICATE HE TYPICALLY ABUSIVE IN COMMENTS ABOUT GOVERNMENT AND HELD OUT THREAT OF FORCE AT SOME LATTER DATE, BUT WE UNDERSTAND NEITHER WALI KHAN NOR OTHER UDF LEADERS HAD PLANNED STONE THROWING AND WERE UNHAPPY
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ABOUT TWO INCIDENTS. SOME LOCAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT

UDF LEADERS MAY NOW BE TRYING OUT NEW TACTICS AGAINST GOVERNMENT
AND ARE URGING FOLLOWERS TO COURT ARREST. OF SOME INTEREST
THAT VETERAN FRONTIER OPPOSITION LEADER KHAN ABDUL GHAFAR KHAN
UTILIZED INCIDENTS TO ISSUE ONE OF HIS PERIODIC PRESS STATEMENTS
CONDEMNING DRIFT OF COUNTRY'S POLITICS AWAY FROM MORALITY TOWARD
VIOLENCE AND HATRED. HE SPECIFICALLY DENOUNCED STONE THROWING
AND QUOTE ANYONE HAVING CONTACTS WITH KHUDAI KHIDMATGAR WOULD
NOT BE PARTY TO SUCH ACTS UNQUOTE.
EVERTS

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